

2024

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CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

THE CUTS to California National Guard's firefighting capacity come just as peak fire season is starting.

CalGuard fire crews operating at just 40%

Most members are in L.A. as part of Trump deployment

BY HAYLEY SMITH

As California braces for a potentially dangerous fire season, Gov. Gavin Newsom says critical firefighting crews from the state's National Guard are operating at just 40% of capacity following President Trump's order to divert them to Los Angeles in response to federal immigration action.

Eight of the California National Guard's 14 firefighting crews — known as Task Force Rattlesnake — have been deployed to L.A. as part of Trump's federalization of the Guard, Newsom said this week. Task Force Rattlesnake is made up of more than

300 members of the California National Guard who work at the direction of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Only six crews are left to prepare for and potentially respond to fires, down from nine just a week ago, according to the governor.

"With peak fire season well underway across California, we need all available resources to protect communities," Newsom said in a statement. "President Trump: rescind your illegal order and get the Guard back to the critical firefighting and prevention work that actually keeps communities safe."

CalGuard officials said the troops

were called to federal active duty under Title 10 authority, which empowers the president to activate National Guard troops for federal service under certain emergency protocols. Newsom has opposed these actions as an unwarranted and illegal infringement on the state's authority.

Trump invoked Title 10 on June 7 when he announced he was deploying National Guard troops to Los Angeles to "temporarily protect [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and other United States Government personnel who are performing Federal functions."

California Military Department
[See Firefighting, B4]

ICE arrests at courthouse stir fears of effect on legal system

Defendants in local case are seized. Tactics could silence victims, witnesses, critics say.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested two women Tuesday outside a Los Angeles courthouse after a hearing in a local criminal case, marking the first instance in recent weeks of the Trump administration using a tactic that has drawn condemnation from the legal community.

Adriana Bernal, 37, was detained after appearing in the Airport Courthouse on La Cienega Boulevard late Tuesday morning, said Jennifer Cheng, public information officer for the L.A. County alternate public defender's office.

Video from the scene shows law enforcement agents, most in all-black clothing, leading a woman toward a black truck with tinted windows outside the courthouse as one onlooker screams, "Oh my God, oh my God," repeatedly. The agents had been waiting in the third-floor courtroom where Bernal and two other defendants were scheduled to appear, Cheng said.

"Our client walked out of the courtroom and was followed by these individuals. Once our client was outside the building, these individuals (who were not in any uniform), handcuffed her, put her into a dark colored SUV and drove away," Cheng said in an email to The Times. "We were absolutely blindsided by what happened. These purported ICE agents detained our client without notice or explanation. We re-

ceived no advance communication, no opportunity to advise our client, and no information."

Advocates, defense attorneys and even some prosecutors have long sounded the alarm about the problems that could arise from ICE using state criminal courts as staging grounds for federal immigration enforcement. When ICE engaged in similar behavior across California, Oregon, New Mexico and Colorado in 2017, during President Trump's first term in office, prosecutors in some states reported having to drop cases because undocumented immigrants would no longer serve as witnesses.

[See Courthouse, B5]

LAPD says that it didn't help ICE with raid

BY SUMMER LIN

Immigrant rights activists are denouncing the Los Angeles Police Department after officers were videotaped separating an angry crowd from a group of masked federal agents as they loaded a woman into the back of an SUV.

"The people were coming out to defend them and guess who protected the kidnappers who are kidnapping our people? LAPD officers," said Unión del Barrio member Ron Gochez at a demonstration outside LAPD headquarters Tuesday.

The video, which was shared with ABC7, has inflamed tensions between L.A.'s Latino community and the LAPD and comes amid increasingly aggressive federal immigration sweeps across Southern California.

The department has issued a statement insisting that it was not cooperating with federal authorities. Instead, the officers were responding to reports of a kidnapping in downtown Tuesday, when they stumbled upon federal immigration agents conducting a raid before an "agitated" crowd.

The officers took a position between spectators and immigration agents in an attempt to "de-escalate tensions," the release said.

But immigrant rights groups, including Unión del

Voices GUSTAVO ARELLANO COLUMNIST

What Cudahy's vice mayor meant when she hit up 'cholos' to fight immigration sweeps

In the wacky political world of southeast Los Angeles County — where scandals seem to bloom every year with the regularity of jacarandas — there's never been a mess as *pendejo* as the one stirred up this week by Cudahy Vice Mayor Cynthia Gonzalez.

How else would you describe an elected official telling gang leaders, in a video posted to social media, to "f— get your members in order" and take to the streets against Donald Trump's immigration raids?

Gonzalez's rant has set off a national storm at the worst possible time. Conservative media is depict-



which it called "despicable," and insisted that "this kind of garbage" has fueled "assaults" against its agents.

Gonzalez later asked her Facebook friends to help her find a lawyer, because "the FBI just came to my house." To my colleague Ruben Vives, the agency didn't confirm or deny Gonzalez's assertion.

The first-term council member deserves all the reprimands being heaped on her — most of all because the video that set off this pathetic episode is so cringe.

"I want to know where all the cholos are at in Los Angeles — 18th Street, Florence, where's the lead-

Judge criticizes ICE arrests at L.A. courthouse

[Courthouse, from B1]
An ICE spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II of the Los Angeles County Superior Court said the courts did not receive advance notice of the arrest operation and confirmed ICE had not taken enforcement actions inside county courthouses this year.

"Federal immigration enforcement activities inside courthouses disrupt court operations, breach public trust, and compromise the Court's constitutional role as a neutral venue for the peaceful resolution of disputes," Tapia said in a statement. "These actions create a chilling effect, silencing victims, deterring witnesses, discouraging community members from seeking protection and deterring parties from being held accountable for their crimes or participating in legal proceedings critical to the rule of law."

Bernal was slated to appear for an early disposition hearing in a case where she and two other defendants were charged with organized retail theft, grand theft and possession of burglary tools, according to court records.

One of Bernal's co-defendants was also detained by ICE agents, according to two sources with knowledge of the case, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the news media.

Cheng said the alternate public defender's office is "looking into whether local law enforcement or members of the District Attorney's Office played a role in what happened," though she admitted to having no evidence to support the idea that prosecutors tipped off ICE.

L.A. County Dist. Atty. Nathan Hochman said his



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

LEADERS and members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community denounce ICE raids in L.A.

office had no advance notice of ICE's actions and would not notify federal officials about the immigration status of anyone they are prosecuting.

"As a general proposition, I don't want anyone deported until I've got them sentenced. And if their sentence is jail or state prison, I want them to serve their sentence," he said in an interview. "That is the punishment they receive for committing crimes in my county. It doesn't help that objective to get them through the criminal justice system, get them punished in our system, by having them deported before they're done with what's going on here."

Hochman described the defendants in the case as

part of an organized retail theft "organization" with members from South America.

Although ICE once directed its agents to avoid making arrests in so-called sensitive locations including schools, places of worship

and hospitals, Trump shifted that policy shortly after he took office, rescinding the 2011 Obama-era memo that restricted such actions.

ICE officials have previously said arrests at courthouses were necessary to

keep agents safe from dangerous criminals, who must pass through metal detectors and are presumably unarmed.

But a recent Times study of statistics collected by the Deportation Data Project shows that 69% of the 722

people arrested during the first week of the Trump administration's California immigration raids had no criminal record.

The California Supreme Court previously rebuked the federal government during Trump's last presidency for "stalking courthouses" and using the justice system as "bait," in effect punishing undocumented people for showing up to court.

In recent months, the Trump administration has been routinely arresting people at regular immigration hearings and federal court appearances.

Cheng said Tuesday's actions by ICE were a dangerous escalation by the agency in Los Angeles.

"We have seen throughout our community how ICE agents often detain and seize people simply because they fit a particular profile, without any regard to the person's immigration status, or the status of any immigration process that a person is currently going through," she wrote. "When there is widespread fear that ICE is going to snatch you if you go to court — whether you are charged with a crime, a victim of crime, or a witness to crime, people will stop going to court."

Times staff writer Andrea Castillo contributed to this report.

More transgender surgeries stopped

[Surgeries, from B1]
offer other types of gender-affirming care outside of surgical procedures.

Stanford's clinic was founded in 2015 to provide medical services for gender-nonconforming youths, including hormone blockers and psychiatric support for children transitioning gender identities.

In January, Trump issued an executive order that directs federal agencies to cut federal funding to healthcare providers that offer gender-affirming care to minors.

"It is the policy of the United States that it will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures," the executive order states.

A federal judge blocked this order in March.

Federal agencies including the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have warned of strict consequences for doctors and hospitals providing care opposed by the admin-

istration.

In April, U.S. Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi issued a memorandum notifying medical providers that "female genital mutilation" is a felony, instructing the FBI to investigate potential criminal acts, and directing U.S. attorneys to prosecute such acts.

"These threats are no longer theoretical," Children's Hospital L.A. executives wrote in a June email to staff. "Taken together, the Attorney General memo, HHS review, and the recent solicitation of tips from the FBI to report hospitals and providers of GAC [gender-affirming care] strongly signal this Administration's intent to take swift and decisive action, both criminal and civil, against any entity it views as being in violation of the executive order."

Last week, the Supreme Court upheld Tennessee's ban on providing puberty blockers and hormone treatments for transgender teens. Similar laws are in effect in 23 other Republican-led states, all of which were enacted in the last four years. California continues to uphold the right for minors diagnosed with gender dysphoria to be prescribed puberty blockers and hormone treatment.

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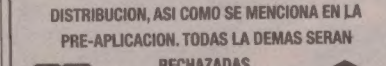
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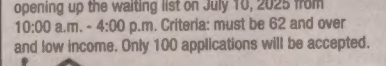
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Rentals Senior Living

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

Case Number (Numero del Caso): 24VECV04990

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Brian Warren, an individual; and DOES 1 THROUGH 100, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
GigaCloud Technologies (USA) Inc., a California Stock Corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

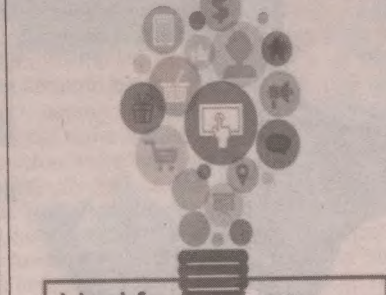
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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